

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1-9. (Cancelled)

10. (New) A reaming tool, comprising:

a body adapted to couple to a drill string at both axial ends thereof, the body having a plurality reaming blades affixed thereto, selected ones of the plurality of reaming blades having at least one cutter attached thereto at selected positions and orientations, the plurality of reaming blades comprising at least one radially most extensive reaming blade; and

comprising at least one pilot blade azimuthally spaced apart from the at least one radially most extensive reaming blade, the at least one pilot blade affixed to the body longitudinally ahead of the at least one radially most extensive reaming blade.

11. (New) The reaming tool of claim 10, wherein the at least one cutter attached to selected ones of the plurality of reaming blades is at selected positions and orientations to minimize a net lateral force developed by the reaming tool.

12. (New) The reaming tool of claim 10, wherein the at least one pilot blade includes a gauge pad having a diameter substantially equal to a drill diameter of a pilot bit used to drill a pilot hole longitudinally ahead of the reaming tool.

13. (New) The reaming tool of claim 10, wherein selected ones of the plurality of reaming blades comprise a spiral structure.

14. (New) A reaming tool, comprising:

a body adapted to couple to a drill string at both axial ends thereof; and
a plurality of reaming blades affixed to the body, selected ones of the
plurality of reaming blades having at least one cutter attached
thereto, at least one of the selected ones of the plurality of reaming
blades having at least one insert on a laterally outermost surface.

15. (New) The reaming tool of claim 14, wherein selected ones of the
plurality of reaming blades comprise a spiral structure.
16. (New) A reaming tool, comprising:
a body adapted to couple to a drill string at both axial ends thereof; and
a plurality of reaming blades affixed to the body, the plurality of reaming
blades comprising:
at least one radially most extensive reaming blade defining a drill circle
substantially coaxial with a longitudinal axis of the body; and
at least two radially less extensive reaming blades azimuthally spaced apart
so as to define a pass-through circle smaller than and axially offset
from the drill circle, wherein the at least one radially most extensive
blade substantially avoids contact when passing through an opening
having about a diameter of the pass-through circle.
17. (New) The reaming tool of claim 16, wherein selected ones of the at
least one radially most extensive reaming blade comprise wear resistant
inserts on laterally outermost surfaces thereof.